Tribal families below poverty line.

1027. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Willl the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a million of tribal families in the country are still below the poverty line despite the implementation of the poverty amelioration programme at the end of Sixth Plan; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGTI): (a) and (b) The estimate of persons living below poverty line are made on the basis of the National Sample Surevys (NSS) on consumer expenditure. These estimates in respect of Scheduled Tribes are available for the years 1977-78 and 1983-84 (based on 32nd Round and 38th Round of NSS) respectively. There were 35 million Scheduled Tribe persons below poverty line in 1977-78 costituting 71.4 per cent of the Scheduled Tribe population in that year. In 1983-84 the number of Scheduled Tribe presons below poverty line came down to 32.8 millions constituting 57.2 of their population. The reasons that still large number of tribal people remain below poverty line is that their economic conditions was initially much worse than that of the rest of the society. However, the sharp decline in the proportion of population below poverty line was possible because of implementation of various Poverty Alleviation Programmes with special focus on tribal population. In the Sixth Five Year Plan 39.67 lakh Scheduled Tribe families were economically assisted to enable them to cross the poverty line. In the Seventh Five Year Plan also, various programmes for upliftment of tribal poor are being followed with increased emphasis.

Persons below Poverty Lines in Orissa

1028. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons living below the poverty line in Orissa at the end of 1986;

(b) the action taken by Government during 1987 to bring them above poverty line; and

(c) the number of persons brought above poverty line during the year 1984-85, 1985-86, 1986-87?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGTI): (a) The latest available information about the number of persons living below poverty line in different States including Orissa pertains to 1983-84 NSSO survey. As per this survey, the number of persons living below poverty line in ruaral areas of Orissa was 107.7 lakhs.

(b) The anti-poverty programmes, like; the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), National Rural Employment Programme (NREP), and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP) continue to be implemented in Orissa during 1987-88.

(c) No year-wise survey of beneficiaries crossing the poverty line is conducted. The number of persons brought above poverty line would be known as and when the results of the next Quinquennial survey by the NSSO are received.